AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) A string type air damper comprising:

a cylinder formed in a tubular shape, defining a guide hole at one end portion thereof;

a piston, which moves in the cylinder;

a helical spring for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and

a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole, wherein:

the piston and the string member are integrally molded;

the string member branches into a plurality of portions and connects with the piston at a base end portion thereof;

the portions come together at a forward end portion of the string member; and

the plurality of portions of the string member connect with different positions on the piston.

3. (Currently Amended) A string type air damper comprising:

a cylinder formed in a tubular shape, defining a guide hole at one end portion thereof;

a monolithic piston having a string member portion, which moves in the cylinder;

a helical spring for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and

~~a~~ the string member portion guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole, wherein:

~~the piston and the string member are integrally molded~~;

the string member portion has a flat belt shape;

the guide hole of the cylinder has a flat opening and a smooth arcuate face continuing to a wide width edge of the opening so that the belt-shaped string member is bendable and guidable along the arcuate face; and

the string member portion having the belt shape is bent and guided along the arcuate

face of the guide hole.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) A string type air damper comprising:

a cylinder formed in a tubular shape;

a piston, which moves in the cylinder;

a helical spring for biasing the piston toward one end portion of the cylinder;

a guide cap attached to the other end portion of the cylinder and defining a guide hole; and,

a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole, wherein:

the guide cap and the string member are integrally molded;

the string member is hooked to the piston within the cylinder and is guided to the outside thereof;

the string member branches into a plurality of portions;

a base end portion of the string member is connected to the guide cap; and

the plurality of portions of the string member are connected to different positions on the guide cap.

6. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 5, wherein:

the plurality of portions come together at a forward end portion of the string member; and

the portions are hooked at the piston.

7. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 2, further comprising an end cap attached to the other end portion of the cylinder.

13. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 2, further comprising a mount integrally formed on the piston for receiving an end portion of the helical compression spring.

14. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 3, wherein the guide hole comprises a shape that substantially corresponds to a cross-section of the string member portion.

15. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 3, further comprising a mount integrally molded on the piston for receiving an end portion of the helical compression spring.

16. (Previously Presented) The string type air damper according to claim 5, further comprising a mount integrally molded on the piston for receiving an end portion of the helical compression spring.

17. – 21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The string type air damper according to claim 3, wherein the monolithic piston includes a spring mount portion that protrudes from a surface of the monolithic piston toward the helical spring.

23. (New) The string type air damper according to claim 3, wherein the string member portion has a substantially rectangular cross-section.

24. (New) The string type air damper according to claim 3, wherein the cylinder comprises a non-removable closed end and the guide hole is formed in the non-removable closed end of the cylinder.

25. (New) The string type air damper according to claim 3, wherein the string member portion passes through the non-removable closed end of the cylinder.